

September 7, 2023

From Fr. John

The words of Psalm 149, which we will pray in the Sunday morning services, are an excellent expression of the ambiguities we encounter when we try to live as faithful children of God.

The psalm starts, “Hallelujah! Sing to the LORD a new song; sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful. ... let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp. For the LORD takes pleasure in his people and adorns the poor with victory.” That is a wonderful statement of how Christians should give thanks to God, and how we understand this God who created all that is. So let’s all celebrate our faithful and loving Creator.

But then the psalm takes a hard turn. “Let the praises of God be in their throat and a two-edged sword in their hand; to wreak vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples;” This is clearly a call to act in a warlike fashion on God’s behalf.

The words of Psalm 149 have been used to incite and justify war against those deemed to be the enemies of God. Throughout history, there have been multiple occasions in which wars have been directly traced to nations believing they were following God’s command, as set out in this psalm.

The author of the book of Hebrews writes, however, that “the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword” (Hebrews 4:12). As Christians today seek God’s justice in the world, words can be a powerful weapon in the hands of the “faithful” against those who cause or allow others to suffer injustice.

The moral of this story is: be careful how you quote Scripture; double check yourself if you believe that God is calling you to war; and be even more careful when you are deciding to call down the wrath of God on someone.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

Fr. John+

The Slipknots

Saturday, September 9

10:00 a.m. - noon in the Youth building



If you enjoy Knitting or crocheting, this is the ministry for you! The participants take up their knitting needles and crochet hooks to create scarves, hats, and other warm fuzzies to donate to the Homeless Coalition around the corner to distribute to our neighbors in need in the wintertime. Come enjoy fellowship with coffee and homemade goodies to snack while you work.



Adult Christian Formation

Come and join us in the parlor at 9:15 on Sunday mornings as we study of the **story of Moses** from the Book of Exodus. Bring a cup of coffee, or your favorite beverage, and sit in. There is no preparation needed to join in the discussion.

Coffee Hour This Sunday!



Coffee hour provides a great opportunity for fellowship on Sunday mornings following the 10:30 a.m. service in the Parish Hall. A wonderful time to visit and catch up on what is happening within our church family.

If you would like to help either with refreshments or as a server for this ministry, sign up in Parish Hall or call Susan Frey at 318-449-8501.



The 2023-2024 St. James Concert Series season opens on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, as we welcome the London based choral ensemble, Siglo De Oro. In their debut US tour, the group will perform a concert of music from the Renaissance to the contemporary particularly honoring the 400th anniversary of the master British composer, William Byrd.

As always, the concert is free admission and there will be a reception to greet our guests in the parish hall. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for an evening of beautiful music.

A PERFECT FOUNDATION PANCAKE BREAKFAST 2023
Thursday, September 21st
6:30 am to 11:30 am

\$7 Donation
Dine-In or Carry Out
(Free delivery in Cenla for group orders of 10+)

Presented by **P&G**

St. James Episcopal Church
1620 Murray Street
Alexandria, LA 71301

For advance tickets or event information, please call (318) 442-8277.

Additional Sponsors: **FOCUS**, **CENTRAL LOUISIANA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**, **St. James**

BRIDGING THE GAP:
TRUTHFUL CONVERSATIONS & RACIAL HEALING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 10AM-NOON, RECEPTION TO FOLLOW
ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1620 MURRAY ST., ALEXANDRIA

contact Joy Owensby at joy@epiwl.org for more details
The Episcopal Church in Western Louisiana, www.epiwl.org

Join us on Saturday, October 14, to hear the remarkable story of Rev. Avery Hamilton and Mr. Dean Woods, two men from different backgrounds who have come together to honor the legacy of the Colfax Massacre. The massacre, a shocking event in American history that occurred in 1873 in Grant Parish, Louisiana, resulted in the deaths of over 60 Black men who were asserting

their constitutional rights. Up until now, it has largely been forgotten in the retelling of our history.

Rev. Avery Hamilton, a Black man and the great-great-great grandson of Jesse McKinney, the first man killed in the massacre, is the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Colfax. He grew up in Colfax without knowing about his family's past or

the events that took place there. Dean, a white man in Houston and the great-grandson of Bedford Woods, a man who participated in the massacre, grew up in Louisiana without knowing about his family's connection to the event.

Avery and Dean's talk will highlight how they have worked together to establish the Colfax Memorial Organization (<https://www.colfaxmemorial.org/>) to correct a false historical narrative and offer a place of remembrance and reflection. They will also share their vision to continue to make a difference in their community and the world and provide a model of transformation and healing across racial and historical divides.

All are welcome to participate in this informative and inspirational event!
Questions? Contact Joy Owensby (joy@epiwl.org).

WORSHIP

September 10th

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

In-person Worship at 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM
Childcare is available for the 10:30 AM service.

[Click on this link to join the 10:30 AM service.](#)

[Click here for the service bulletin.](#)

For where
two or three
are gathered in
my name,
there am I
among them.
Matthew 18:20

September 10, 2023

Evening Prayer

Online @ 5:00 PM

[Click on this link to join Evening Prayer.](#)

Meeting ID: 863 4898 4077

Passcode: 1620

[Click here for the order of service & reading.](#)



Prayer

Parish Prayer List

Please keep these members of our community in your prayers:

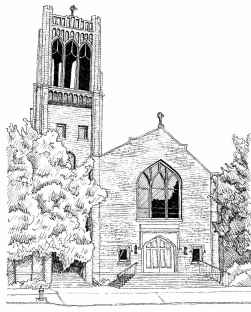
Marietta, John Upton, Rita Clancey, Jackie LaCour, Linda Ittner, Gwen Jones, Sophia Frey Bradford, Becky Maxwell, Brady Brown, Heather Craig, Dr. Wesley Davis, Steve Caballero, Anna Stapleton, Ann Vanderslice, Charles Robinson, Bobbie Chatelain, Larry, Eleanor, Carli McGinty, Fr. John, Lacy Shaw, Sam Bejach, Lawrence, Liz McSween, Beth Courtney, Holly Craig, Kip Hogue, Jim Bristol, Ellen Moore, Mother Meredith Ward, Beth Hebert, Jimmy Hurt, Barbara Baldwin, Louise Carter, John Brewer, Fred Alexius, Paula Lieberman, Robbie G., Jonathan Rhea, Minnie Mikell, Massi Jordan, Pepe Rizzo, Bonnie McLellan, Michael Sterne, Jim Leggett, Cackie, Kristie Fresh, Andrea, Janet & Carl Ahrens, Jeff and Anne, Lillian DeVille, Wilma Filipi, Stephen, Natosha and Family, Fran Barbato, Kevin Delaney, Gail, Charlotte Sterling, Matthew Fontanille, Andrew, Shirley Christian, Susan Webster, Chase Barnfield, Johnnie Hart, Jane Y. Harris, Kyle, James Jay Watts, Beth Virden, Glenn Guillory, Elda Schoolcraft, Mesta Bain, Dean M. Tyree, Beverly Butler, Murel Trimble, Emily Warren, Bill Leibke, Wayne Moorehead, Donna House, Dayna Hill, Jane Tyson, and Mehre Hajjhassem.

For those in the military:

Kyle Jordan, Samuel Hayes, Franklin Watson, Donal McCarthy, Michael Geiger, Erskine Cook, Jr., Patrick Downs, and Chris Babcock.

For those celebrating birthdays in September (day):

Jim Marshall (8), Virginia White (8), Stella Craig (10), Dcn. Michael Parham (12), Brad Drell (14), Eliza Theus (18), Eric Jones (19), Taylor Thompson (19), Julia Welch (19), Anna Theus (21), James Theus (21), Spencer Brown (23), Pietry Cabrera (23), Michael Sterne (25), Joan Brunson (28), Elaine Hicks (28), Meredith Owensby (28), Jim Leggett (30).



Visit our
Website

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